



*OhioTrek : A Focus on Literacy* is a strategic model designed to prepare third and fourth grade students to meet Ohio's Fourth Grade Guarantee. *OhioTrek* focuses intently on the improvement of literacy skills – specifically reading and writing – through the context of social studies topics.

This curriculum guide is part of a comprehensive new interactive instructional curriculum package which also includes an interactive website and over 70 minutes of videotaped field trip segments for classroom viewing. *OhioTrek* will serve all third and fourth grade students in 32 of the states' 200 low wealth districts in northwest and west central Ohio.

*Authors:*

Cynthia Bertelsen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Division of Teaching and Learning

Bowling Green State University

John Fischer, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Division of Teaching and Learning

Bowling Green State University

Allison Goedde

Associate Director of Professional Development

Northwest Ohio Educational Technology Foundation

Bowling Green State University

Produced by WBGU-TV, Bowling Green State University's public television station, with assistance from the Northwest Ohio Educational Technology Foundation through a grant from the Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network in support of the SchoolNet initiative.

# CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>FARM LIFE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
A. Vocabulary .....	3
B. Production & Consumption .....	9
C. Video Trek - Getting Wheat To Market .....	13
D. Problem-Solution/Text Structure .....	17
E. How We Get Products to Market .....	21
F. Then and Now - Vocabulary .....	23
G. Video Trek - Century Farm.....	27
H. Farm Life in the Past.....	31
I. Essay Writing.....	35
<b>MY COMMUNITY</b> .....	<b>39</b>
A. A Problem in My Community .....	41
B. Who is Responsible in My Community?.....	45
C. Vocabulary .....	51
D. The Collaborative Community .....	57
E. Playground .....	61
<b>PRODUCING TOYS</b> .....	<b>65</b>
A. Video Trek - Producing Toys: Toy Wagon .....	67
B. Video Trek - Producing Toys: The Wooden Bus .....	71
C. Vocabulary .....	73
D. Comparing Forms of Production .....	81
E. Designing a Toy .....	83
F. Text Structure.....	87
<b>MOUNDBUILDERS</b> .....	<b>91</b>
A. The Day We Found a Hill .....	93
B. Moundbuilder Vocabulary .....	95
C. A Moundbuilder Web Trek .....	101
D. Description Text Structure .....	105
E. What About Our Hill? .....	109
<b>UNDERGROUND RAILROAD</b> .....	<b>113</b>
A. Introduction .....	115
B. Video Trek: The Underground Railroad in Ohio .....	121
C. A Journey Along the Underground Railroad.....	125
D. Web Activity.....	131
E. Mapping the Underground Railroad .....	133
F. Text Structure: The Story of Thomas McIntire .....	139

<b>CULTURAL GROUPS IN OHIO .....</b>	<b>147</b>
A. Cultural Diversity in Ohio .....	149
B. Latinos .....	153
C. Writing Cube Reports .....	157
D. Vocabulary Development .....	163
E. Cultures in Ohio .....	169
F. Comparing Cultures .....	173
G. A Celebration of Our Similarities and Differences .....	179
<b>APPENDIX .....</b>	<b>181</b>
A. Draft Standards For Third Grade English Language Arts .....	183
B. National Council On Social Studies – Disciplines Of History, Geography, Civics, Economics .....	189
C. NETS For Students .....	195
D. URL Resources For Content .....	197
E. Bibliography .....	201
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....</b>	<b>203</b>

# INTRODUCTION

The *OhioTrek* curriculum is a strategically designed model for third and fourth grade students and teachers. Since literacy development has proven to be paramount to successful student achievement, the *OhioTrek* student curriculum resource focuses on problem solving strategies specifically designed to improve literacy skills by integrating reading, writing, and social studies topics.

As a regional instructional package, *OhioTrek* directly serves third and fourth grade students in 32 of Ohio's 200 low wealth districts. This includes 55 schools and over 5200 students. *OhioTrek* is carefully designed to provide high quality supplemental instruction through varied delivery methods, and addresses the learning styles and needs of all students, including those with disabilities.

Specifically, the *OhioTrek* multimedia project will focus on raising students' abilities in the areas of:

- Becoming active, engaged learners by addressing individual learning styles
- Strengthening the ability to access non-fiction (informational text)
- Providing opportunities to explore informal writing (Ohio Language Arts Model)
- Working with web-based materials for collection and interpretation of data

These goals will be achieved through the presentation of six units within a social studies context. The unit topics will be presented using interactive web-based curriculum materials, and further developed and reinforced in the accompanying teacher's guide and video segments. The objectives of these units correlate with the Ohio state models in Language Arts and Social Studies as well as Ohio's Fourth Grade Proficiency Tests in reading, writing, and citizenship.

Three of the units in the *OhioTrek* curriculum are designed for third grade students and teachers and the other three are geared toward fourth grade. Topic areas for third graders include economics (Farm Life), production and consumption (Toy Production), and local government (My Community). Fourth graders will concentrate on areas that include early Ohio history (Moundbuilders), comparing cultural groups in Ohio (e.g., African American, Amish, German, Latino, and Polish), and historical timelines and mapping (the Underground Railroad). However, each unit is designed so that teachers may use it in either grade. In order to gain the maximum benefit from the curriculum, the lessons within each unit follow a suggested sequence. However, the curriculum is designed so the components can be adapted to fit any individual school curriculum. Teachers may choose to incorporate only a few of the lessons from any one unit and may do so in any order.

## WEBSITE

The website for *OhioTrek* is a closed site that is password protected. There are four main sections: Teacher, Student, About *OhioTrek*, and Teacher/Student Survey. Components of the interactive website include links to streaming video segments. These segments are designed to reinforce key concepts from whole group discussions; cooperative learning activities designed to strengthen student responses to non-fiction (informational) text; access to student content area word banks (glossary); ability to download or review electronic files of teacher support materials; and a searchable database of primary and secondary resources.

## VIDEOTAPED SEGMENTS

Each unit has one or two videotaped "field trip" segments for classroom viewing, discussion and activities. These short segments help students visualize areas of interest not usually accessible to them, enabling students to more directly absorb lesson concepts. Videotaped segments are produced to encourage students to further investigate and explore topics of interest; this strongly supports literacy development through media. Video field trips are also topically related to web-based materials and topics.

## CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The curriculum standards used to create the *OhioTrek* materials are drawn from the following sources:

- Ohio Fourth Grade Proficiency Objectives
- State of Ohio Draft Standards 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade English/Language Arts
- National Council on Social Studies standards in the disciplines of history, geography, civics, economics

For a complete listing of the standards used, reference the appendices of the *OhioTrek* teacher's guide. New Social Studies standards in the state of Ohio are expected to be available by the end of year 2001. New achievement tests in the state of Ohio are expected to be operational within the next few years. It is recommended to resource the Ohio Department of Education website for current updates on standards (<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/ca/cil/>).

## HOW TO GET HELP

For the first year of the project (2001-02 school year), professional development in the form of teacher workshops and school visits will be available. Here are the ways to contact us:

By email:

[dkisabeth@wbgu.bgsu.edu](mailto:dkisabeth@wbgu.bgsu.edu)

By phone:

NWOET Hot Line 1-800-966-9638

By Mail:

OhioTrek  
WBGU-PBS  
245 Troup St.  
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Internet Access:

(URL) <http://www.ohiotrek.org>